PYRALIS NIGRICANA FABRICIUS, 1794 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA): PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY THE SUPPRESSION OF *PHALAENA RUSTICELLA* CLERCK, 1759. Z.N.(S.)2468

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It is proposed that the name *Pyralis nigricana* Fabricius, 1794, be granted nomenclatural precedence over *Phalaena rusticella* Clerck, 1759, an unused senior synonym. The name *nigricana* has long been used to denote a widely distributed palaearctic, and introduced nearctic, pest of cultivated pea (*Pisum sativum*).

2. Clerck, 1759 (*Icones Insectorum rariorum,* pl. 10, fig. 11) illustrated and named *Phalaena rusticella* as a new species but gave no written description or account.

3. The name *rusticella* does not appear to have been used in the primary zoological literature for this species until Robinson & Nielson, 1983 (*Syst. Entomol.*, vol. 8, pp. 191–242) published a revision of the Microlepidoptera described by Linnaeus and Clerck. In this work the authors clarified the synonymy of the two names, *nigricana* and *rusticella,* drawing upon new evidence—a recently rediscovered Clerck specimen, labelled in Clerck's hand as *rusticella.* This specimen was designated by the authors as the lectotype of *Phalaena rusticella* Clerck.

4. Robinson & Nielson, 1983, p. 229, stated that 'It is most unfortunate that the identity of this name has not been realised until now. Clerck's figure is indisputably of the species known until now as *Cydia nigricana*'. They added that 'It may be considered that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should be asked to suppress the name *rusticella. Cydia nigricana* is an economically important species with a wide literature, and the case for the conservation of the name *nigricana* is a strong one'.

5. Fabricius, 1794 (*Entomologia Systematica,* vol. 3(2), p. 276) described a new species of moth, *Pyralis nigricana* from England, in the collection of Mr Francillon. John Francillon's insect collection was dispersed following his death in 1817. Part of the collection was acquired by the University Museum of Oxford and part by the British Museum at Bloomsbury. The remainder, comprising mostly exotic species, was sold by public auction in 1818. The species was not listed in the sale catalogue, and no Francillon specimen of *nigricana* has been found either at the University Museum, Oxford (M. Scoble, 1983, pers. comm.) or the British Museum (Natural History) (K.R.C. Tuck, 1983, pers. comm.). There is no specimen of *nigricana* in the Fabrician Collection at Copenhagen, Denmark (O. Karsholt, 1983, pers. comm.).

6. In contrast to *rusticella*, the name *nigricana* has remained in continued use albeit in synonymy or under different generic combinations since 1794. The species has been known in the taxonomic literature as *nigricana* consistently since its use by Rebel, in Staudinger & Rebel, 1901 (*Catalog der Lepidopteren des palaearctischen Faunengebiets*, part 2, p. 120) and in works of applied entomology, also from this time, as the name of a tortricid pest causing damage to cultivated pea, *Pisum sativum*. The species has a wide palearctic distribution ranging from Europe to Japan and China (Balachowsky, 1966, p. 634). *Cydia nigricana* was probably introduced into North America (Canada) in 1893 (Fletcher, 1895, Report of the Entomologist and Botanist for 1894, *Experimental Farms Reports*, p. 188. Ottawa, Canada). It now occurs in most southern parts of Canada and in the north-east and extreme north-west of the United States of America (Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, 1981. *Cydia nigricana* (F.). *Dist. Maps Pests*, (A) no. 421).

7. In the last decade (since 1973) there have been 56 publications with the name *nigricana* in the title; these were published in 10 countries, viz. France, United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Czechoslovakia and U.S.S.R. A further 41 publications have listed or referred to the species during the same period (sources: Agricola, C.A.B. abstracts and Zoological Record to 1980). The species is currently placed in *Cydia* Hübner, [1825] and has been abstracted under the binomen *Cydia nigricana* by the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology for over 70 years in their *Review of Applied Entomology*, since volume one in 1913.

8. To comply with Article 79(b) of the Code, A representative sample of references using the specific name *nigricana* has been deposited with the Commission Secretariat.

9. Together with the following colleagues, Dr D. V. Alford (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Bristol), Dr J. D. Bradley (Commonwealth Institute of Entomology, London), Dr S. A. Ulenberg (Plantenziektenkundige Dienst, Wageningen, Netherlands) and Dr C. Wall (Rothamstead Experimental Station, Harpenden) who have authorised me to make known that they are in accord with the foregoing view, I request that in the interest of nomenclatural stability the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

(1) use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *rusticella* Clerck, as published in the binomen *Phalaena* rusticella, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
(2) place the specific name *nigricana* Fabricius, 1794, as published in the binomen *Pyralis nigricana*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
(3) place the specific name *rusticella* Clerck, 1759, as published in the binomen *Phalaena rusticella*, and as suppressed under the

plenary powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

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